

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/07/15 : LOC-HAK-507-1-43-0

T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY 152202Z MAY 74

MAY 15, 1974

HAKTO 95 IMMEDIATE 25X1

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
FROM: BREMER/GOMPERT  
REF: TOHAK 175

SECRETARY AGREES THAT YOU SHOULD TELL DEFENSE AND CIA TO  
OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FOR EACH SR-71 FLIGHT.  
T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

25X1

JCS review  
completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

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TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

May 15, 1974

15 MAY 74 12 02 z

HAK TO 95  
IMMEDIATE

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
FROM: BREMER/GOMPERT  
REF: TO HAK 175

Secretary agrees that you should tell Defense and CIA to obtain prior approval for each SR-71 flight.

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SCOWCROFT WANTS TO HAVE SR-71 FLIGHTS  
OVER NORTH VIETNAM ONLY WHEN DOD, JCS  
AND CIA BELIEVE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT  
A FLIGHT.

Agree, get approval each  
flight ✓

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

ZEM  
TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY  
DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

14 MAY 64 02 16Z

WH41309

25X1

TOHAK 175

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

LAST NOVEMBER IN THE WSAG YOU DIRECTED THAT JCS PLAN FOR AND CONDUCT SR-71 FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AT TEN-DAY INTERVALS. THIS WAS DONE, OF COURSE, IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTINUING INFILTRATION AND THE CONCERN WIDELY FELT THEN THAT THE NVA MIGHT BE PLANNING EARLY MAJOR OFFENSIVE ACTION IN THE SOUTH. THE SR-71 FLIGHTS WERE VISUALIZED AS WARNINGS AGAINST A NVA OFFENSIVE.

25X1

THE LAST FLIGHT WAS ON MARCH 28. BEFORE THAT A FLIGHT COVERED LAOS ON MARCH 2. THESE WERE THE ONLY FLIGHTS THIS YEAR. THE FREQUENCY HAS BEEN LIMITED PRINCIPALLY BY WEATHER CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, NOT BY INTENT TO HOLD DOWN NUMBERS. DEFENSE NOW PLANS A FLIGHT TOMORROW IF WEATHER PERMITS.

DEFENSE REQUESTED AND OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM YOU FOR THE MARCH 28 FLIGHT. I WAS FRANKLY UNAWARE THEY HAD BEEN FLYING UNDER A BLANKET AUTHORITY WHICH THEY FELT DID NOT REQUIRE APPROVAL FROM YOU OR EVEN NOTIFICATION.

I QUESTION WHETHER THIS BLANKET AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FLIGHTS APPROXIMATELY EVERY TEN DAYS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND. I THINK IT PREFERABLE THAT DEFENSE, JCS, AND CIA PROPOSE A FLIGHT WHENEVER THEY BELIEVE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT ONE. OTHERWISE THE FLIGHTS CAN CONTINUE AND WE MAY HEAR ABOUT THEM ONLY AFTER THE FACT. THIS COULD RESULT IN SOME UNSCHEDULED EMBARRASSMENTS. IF YOU CONCUR, I WILL TELL DEFENSE AND CIA TO OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FOR EACH SR-71 FLIGHT.

WARM REGARDS.

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2502

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